

## FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.00pm held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth. TR11 3QA

Present: Councillors A L Rowe CC (Town Mayor), L D Coley (Deputy Mayor), D E Clegg, K J Edwards, D V Evans BEM, A J Jewell CC (from point mentioned), D A Konik, T M Pearce, E E Seiler, D W Saunby CC, J M P Spargo and Z Young (to point mentioned).

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)  
D C Shankland (Communications Officer)  
J C Aston (Multi-skilled Operative Grounds)  
S M Addinall (Falmouth Fire Station)  
Councillor L Magowan (Cornwall Council, Arwenack ED)  
P Fitzpatrick & J Grafton (Falmouth Fairtrade)  
P Wellings & A Gilbert (Truro and Penwith College)  
S Pond (Macebearer)  
C Ford & K Merton (South West Water)

### **C6021 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Eva (holiday), G F Evans (ill), and Robinson (holiday).

### **C6022 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

The Mayor had assumed that Councillor Young would declare an interest in Minute C6037. She did not and he reminded her of the advice received that she should consider declaring an interest. Nevertheless, he advised that he would permit her to address the matter.

### **C6023 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT**

The report of the Falmouth Community Fire Station Manager was received and included an update on Cornwall's longest fire, and he answered questions thereon, advising that the Environment Agency's investigation remained ongoing and why costs had been accrued. He also updated on fundraising for local charities and dementia awareness support.

### **C6024 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Rowe seconded by Councillor Coley and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **C6025 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Deputy Mayor presented their report that was duly noted.

### **C6026 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT**

The Mayor reported a positive meeting with Falmouth Police Inspector Milburn, who would attend a future meeting of the Council with a community policing update.

### **C6027 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None received.

### **C6028 MARITIME LINE**

Councillor D V Evans reported on the meetings of the Forum and positive usage figures for the branch line as well as the outcomes of the user survey. He responded to questions including on tree clearance (diseased tree removal only). The report and minutes were duly noted.

### **C6029 FALMOUTH ACCELERATED PROGRAMME: STORM OVERFLOW REDUCTION: SOUTH WEST WATER**

Charlie Ford, Project Manager presented an update on the Programme, and with Kathy Merton the Regulatory Programme Manager responded to questions. The Combined Sewerage/Storm Overflows had been extended to 17 (from 9 planned) and he explained how they sat in the overall programme. There were four ways to reduce: Infiltration, surface water separation, building additional storage, and operational/asset optimisation. He updated on the wider Falmouth scope and schematic and the Queen Mary Gardens plan current position – two options: deliver a storm tank at 300sqm alongside infiltration reduction, and deliver reduced storage, alongside surface waters separation and infiltration reduction. Now postponed from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 completion to after the 2025 summer embargoes, this was to investigate feasible surface water separation opportunities. Over 2800m of sewer had been surveyed and that data would inform the proposals by clarifying road gully connections. 17 new screens would be required, and he outlined their positioning.

Next steps: holistic catchment review and detailed design proposals for fast track elements of work was due to complete in June 2025; Queen Mary Gardens sat outside that work and would remain accelerated, with surface water proposals or decision making early in 2025; there would be a re-evaluation of the Falmouth Catchment model to deliver ‘quick wins’; deliver ‘no regrets’ work such as infiltration at Queen Mary Gardens and further; establish collaborative relationships with local and broader stakeholders, that would include the Town Council.

### **C6030 TOWN MAYOR’S REPORT**

The Town Mayor presented their report that was duly noted. Additionally, he was pleased to note that the Council had received a Judge’s Commendation in the Cornwall Sustainability Awards and had been shortlisted for Council of the Year in the National Association of Local Councils Awards, as well as nominations for Sustainability and for the Town Clerk. He also referenced the statement from the Mayor of Penzance previously circulated to councillors and supported.

Alongside Truro and Penwith College he presented the Council’s Multi-skilled Operative (Grounds) Jack Aston with the Institute of Leadership and Management award.

He also presented Sean Pond with a long-service award for acting as Macebearer for 18 years.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7.55pm and reconvened at 8pm.

### **C6031 COMMUNITY AREA PANEL**

The Panel’s Action Notes were duly noted.

## **C6032 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

### **Arwenack**

Councillor Magowan updated on the trader concession in Queen Mary Gardens which was being reviewed by Cornwall Council. He had also met with St Michaels Hotel and the Licensing Officer regarding the Oyster Festival event. He also updated on the planning application for the Gylly Café, which would see a proposed wall removed and the steps from Cliff Road retained for public access during operating hours. He also updated on the Cornwall Leisure Framework, alongside the representations of the Town Council he had challenged the formula used to establish public swimming need, this had been considered by Cornwall Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was progressing to Cabinet consideration where the Framework was likely to be ratified.

### **Trescobeas and Budock**

Councillor Saunby updated on the Falmouth Fire Station Managers report regarding the fire at Kergilliack and the Environment Agency licensing of the Greenspot, and the maintenance of the hedge adjoining the Fire Station. The Station Manager confirmed the hedge was the responsibility of the Fire Service and was being looked into. Councillor Saunby reported upon highway issues at Hillhead Road and pavement height, and at Eve Parc, as well as housing issues he had assisted. He updated on his work on the Miscellaneous Licensing Committee at Cornwall Council.

### **Penwerris**

Councillor Rowe reported on his induction at Cornwall Council. He was taking up a number of housing issues for residents and with Councillors Konik and Pearce met with the Penwerris Tenants Association. Mould Survey actions and remediations remained an outstanding matter. Caravans in the highway near Ponsharden were being moved by the Highways Authority. He was disappointed that some planning application call-ins he had taken forward for the Town Council had been ignored by Cornwall Council who were dismissive of Neighbourhood Plan policies.

### **Boslowick**

Councillor Jewell presented later in the meeting when he was able to join, and reported on storm damage to trees locally. He had supported the recent Motion to Cornwall Council regarding farmers inheritance tax.

## **C6033 FAIRTRADE FALMOUTH**

The Fairtrade Falmouth representatives reported upon local Fairtrade events during 2024 the last of which was participation in the Green Libraries Week and looking forward to 2025 which would be a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for Fairtrade Falmouth. The report was noted, and Councillors would participate in promoting anniversary events.

## **C6034 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Pearce and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Pearce and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 be approved.

The Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee Part 1 Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Konik and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be approved.

The Cultural Services and Leisure Committee Part I Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was presented by Councillor Seiler, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Seiler, seconded by Councillor Coley and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Spargo and

**RESOLVED** that the Report of the Committee dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Spargo and

**RESOLVED** that the Report of the Committee dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Spargo and

**RESOLVED** that the Report of the Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 was presented by Councillor Clegg, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Spargo and

**RESOLVED** that the Report of the Committee dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 be approved.

**C6035 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - SUPER COUNCILS NETWORK**

The notes of the meeting of the Super Councils Network held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were duly noted.

**C6036 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Town Clerk presented the Town Management report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

**C6037 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – PART I**

The Town Clerk presented his Part I Report including an update on storm damage and remediation measures that was duly noted. And:

**Cornwall Council - Assessment Decision Notice, Councillor Zoe Young - CCN045/24/25**

The Town Clerk reported the received decision notice and recommended actions therein to remedy the breaches.

The Mayor permitted Councillor Young to speak to the report and reminded her not to raise matters not pertinent to the Council's consideration. Councillors Coley and Edwards also spoke to the report.

A request for a recorded vote was received and it was proposed by Councillor Rowe, seconded by Councillor Edwards and

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and that Councillor Young had breached the Code of Conduct in being disrespectful of council officers, breaching the trust and confidence that she should be working to maintain, then given the manner she chooses to address officers and the disruption she brings to committee meetings then Councillor Young's ability to speak at Committees that she is not a member of under Standing Order 1(u) be removed until May 2025.

Those voting for the Motion: Councillors Clegg, Coley, Edwards, Konik, Pearce, Rowe, Saunby, Seiler and Spargo. Those voting against the Motion: Councillor Young. Those abstaining from voting: Councillor D V Evans.

Councillor Young now left the meeting and Councillor Jewell now joined the meeting.

**C6038 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Rowe, seconded by Councillor Coley and

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters and personal information it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public, be excluded from the meeting.



## **Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 09/12/24**

### **SAFE & SECURE**

This has been a significant focus of activity in recent weeks and months as I have mentioned on previous reports, placing strong challenge on our limited Town Team resources, as well as pressures on our time. The escalation in cases and low business confidence situation due to the range and frequency of incidents being experienced dealing with the various issues by us face to face, dealing with challenging 999 incidents, influencing and lobbying for greater Police resources, central or regional funding, undertaking a close review of our operations and available resources, playing a key role in new safety partnerships and more besides.

Detail on the various components:

- Disc. The rollout of the Disc crime reporting platform continues and has been very well received. We have over 200 business signups, half of whom are active users. The system is starting to build up a vital picture of high street dynamics. The intelligence gathered from incident and crime reports is being actively fed through to the Police to influence allocation of resource. Work continues around training and support, a key strand. The more accurately incidents are reported, then more can be actioned. We have produced a useful 'how to' handout, which will be disseminated via the Rangers to hundreds of businesses over the next few weeks
- Rangers – we're in the process of securing additional funds to support a training enhancement called CSAS, which will give additional powers of influence to the Rangers. The Rangers continue to offer a good visible presence in the town, responding and reacting as is within their current powers to do so, providing much needed reassurance and support to many

businesses. We are liaising with FTC's in-house Environmental Education and Enforcement Officers who have undertaken the enhanced training that I allude to above, teaming up on patrols where feasible and possible, while at the same time, ensuring there is open dialogue and collaborative working practices

- Internal support – this has involved mentoring and supporting our teams in-house, around reporting protocols, 999 procedures, safety and first aid
- Policing –
  1. The positive news of the months of lobbying and situation analysis plus a very productive Traders meeting has been the work of the very recently installed new beat manager Paul Stevenson. He has been a strong visible presence since he started in post several weeks ago, disrupting regular activity and engaging with the business community.
  2. Focus - in terms of the focus of ASB activity for the Police in Falmouth, without going into too much detail, there is a 'hyperfocus' on six key individuals. This process will take time, as there is the building of evidence towards a CBO (Criminal Behaviour Officer), a strong piece of legislation that provides the Police with the powers to ban individuals from a town centre for a period of time or indefinitely (depending on the CPS' input of course). The shift of focus on the six will change once action against one or more of the first key six, is achieved, so in essence, it is a rolling six.
  3. Partnerships – this has strengthened. The Safer Falmouth group that we attend has expanded its remit and in addition a new group, with service leads from all the key agencies has been formed. This is a core information and intelligence gathering/sharing forum that again, we sit on and provide steer
- Town Link Radios – this is starting to play a good role, with more businesses utilising them and feeding into the comms and reporting framework. Our Rangers continue to advise and support businesses here as well



## **Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 09/12/24**

### **TOWN DELIVERY FUND**

- I'm pleased to say that although it took a long time to confirm from Cornwall Council, as you are aware that we have been successful with our application into this funding pot for the Town Delivery Fund
- We launched the shopfront improvement grant scheme, one of the core strands of the fund as we have laid out, and this has been very well received and in just a few weeks the full take up of the grant has been used by the businesses. It has been a very quick turnaround and once the businesses have undertaken the work then grants will be paid.
- One of the funding strand remits also enables us to undertake in-depth socio-economic analysis around footfall, spend, postcode and heatmapping, and more information will be available on this in due course

Thank you to all Cllrs who helped out with the Festive Weekend and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.